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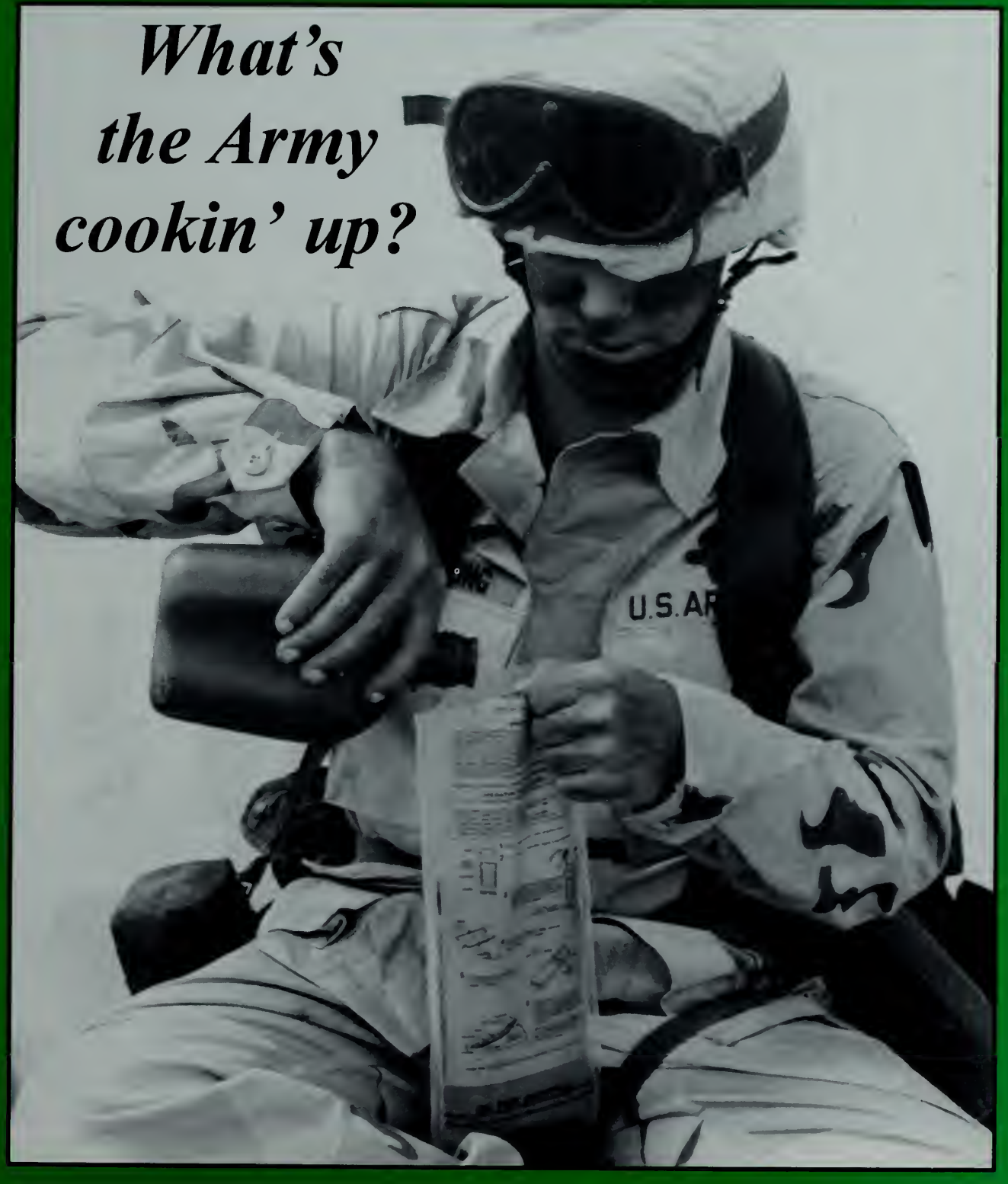
February 1994

Profile

a guide to military lifestyles



HEADS UP!

If you've kept up with television and the newspapers, you're probably well aware that the United States military has gotten a lot smaller in the last couple years. What you may not know is that the military is still hiring.

That may sound like a contradiction. It's not. And the reason is simple. The military relies on people of all races, creeds and backgrounds to get the job done. As people come in, gain experience, get promoted and move on to other jobs, others are needed to perform the tasks their predecessors once did. It's a never-ending cycle, really. And, as technology increases, the demand for qualified young people grows. That means jobs and skills that were never required before are suddenly in demand.

What's my point?

First, if you didn't think the military was still a viable option, you're under the wrong impression.

Second, if you've got a good head on your shoulders and you want to learn a skill, the military may be just what you're looking for.

Sound like a recruiting pitch? I hope not. At PROFILE, our mission is to present information about the military that tells you what career opportunities, benefits and privileges are available to servicemembers. If this information helps you make a more informed decision that a military career is for you, great! At the same time, if what we tell you makes you think that the military may not be for you after all, that's fine too! Our job is simply to make you more informed. In keeping with that, it's important to be aware that the jobs you read about within the pages of this magazine are still around. And people are still needed to fill them.

Our lead feature is about the Army's Natick Research Laboratory. The lab has been the test and development center for such things as GORTEX and field rations. If you want to get a better idea what the Army goes through to increase the survivability and comfort of soldiers, you'll find out in this article.

Our Marine Corps feature focuses on the importance of field exercises in the training of a special breed of Marines.

The Navy feature details some of the environmental measures undertaken when ships are at sea.

The Air Force feature highlights the Langley Air Force Base, Va., Honor Guard.

Our Career Profiles include looks at an Army lawyer, a Marine Corps recruiter, Navy mess management specialists, Air Force dental technicians and a Coast Guard storekeeper.

There's a lot of variety. We're pretty sure you'll find something you'll enjoy reading about. But there's only one way to find out. So, start reading...

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FLARE

Profile

a guide to military lifestyles

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Thanks to the U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center, today's servicemembers are ready to meet tomorrow's challenges.

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Using Natick-developed technology, a soldier in the field prepares a hot meal.

U.S. Army photo

U.S. Army

(Left) A Kevlar helmet that has been fired at in testing. The helmet is designed to prevent bullets from penetrating it.
(Below) The new Kevlar helmet, foreground, compared to the old "steel pot" helmet.

Donna Miles

Looking Toward a High-tech Future

A soldier on patrol with his platoon looks through a special set of "glasses" to view a programmed-in map of the terrain ahead. With a camera built into his helmet, he captures photos of his platoon's movement in the area. As the element advances, his night vision capabilities help him spot the enemy's position ahead. His helmet-mounted, two-way radio allows him to warn other platoon members without using hand and arm signals. The troops' thermal-sight attachments on their M-16A2 rifles help them accurately target the enemy from up to 500 meters away. Before their adversaries know what hit them, the platoon has won the battle.

What sounds like a scenario for an elite space-age group of soldiers may someday become a reality for every soldier on the battlefield thanks to the U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center in Natick, Mass.

The system for the 21st-century land warrior is only part of the center's ongoing research.

Since 1953, the center has been in the business of easing and even saving soldiers' lives. That's done by researching and developing items such as food, clothing, shelter and individual equipment. Old items are constantly improved upon, while new developments are rigorously tested.

Food

Being in the business of developing products to feed soldiers is a task as big as, well, feeding an Army. Food is a necessity as well as a morale factor when troops are in the field.

"It doesn't really matter to soldiers what the nutri-

tional value of food is as long as it tastes good," said Ray Mansier, a physical scientist in the sustainability directorate at Natick. "If soldiers don't like it and don't eat it, we haven't done our job."

That's why Natick has made extensive efforts to suit the tastes of the majority of soldiers. Currently, the standard food for servicemembers in the field, which was developed at Natick, is the meal, ready-to-eat. The MRE is a nutritionally-balanced meal that contains about 1,300 calories. It features entrees such as beef stew and spaghetti, and its contents are packaged in a special material called a retort pouch. The pouch, also a Natick product, makes it possible to store the food for long periods of time and contributes to the MRE's compact size.

New advances in field rations designed by Natick during Operation Desert Storm included a chocolate bar that doesn't melt and a flameless heater pouch that only needs water and a shake to warm an MRE. Mini-loaves of bread can be stored in the pouch for up to three years and remain "oven fresh" because of research done at Natick.

Natick is currently developing new entrees for MREs and working to improve the taste of many of the existing items.

Clothing and equipment

Keeping soldiers protected from Mother Nature's fury of extreme hot and cold temperatures with special clothing and equipment has accounted for many hours of brainwork at Natick as well.

For the center's research on how soldiers and their equipment react in certain climates, tropical and arctic chambers are used. The tropical chamber can reach up to 165 degrees Fahrenheit while the arctic chamber can be lowered to 70 degrees below zero. Wind velocities in both chambers can reach up to 40 mph. Rain and snow can be simulated. Fire test pits have also been used in the development of fire-retardant uniforms for fire fighters and combat vehicle crewmen.

Donna Miles

A prototype of a bulletproof vest gets tested in the lab.

Natick has been home to product innovations like GORTEX, a vapor-permeable, water-impermeable material. The material allows perspiration to escape from the inside while keeping water out. GORTEX is now used to make items such as rainwear, tents and backpacks in both the military and civilian sectors.

Kevlar, a fiber that stretches and can absorb the impact of a bullet, was tailored at Natick to fit the needs of the military. Kevlar is now used to make helmets, body armor and flak jackets in the military, and is also used for similar products in civilian police units.

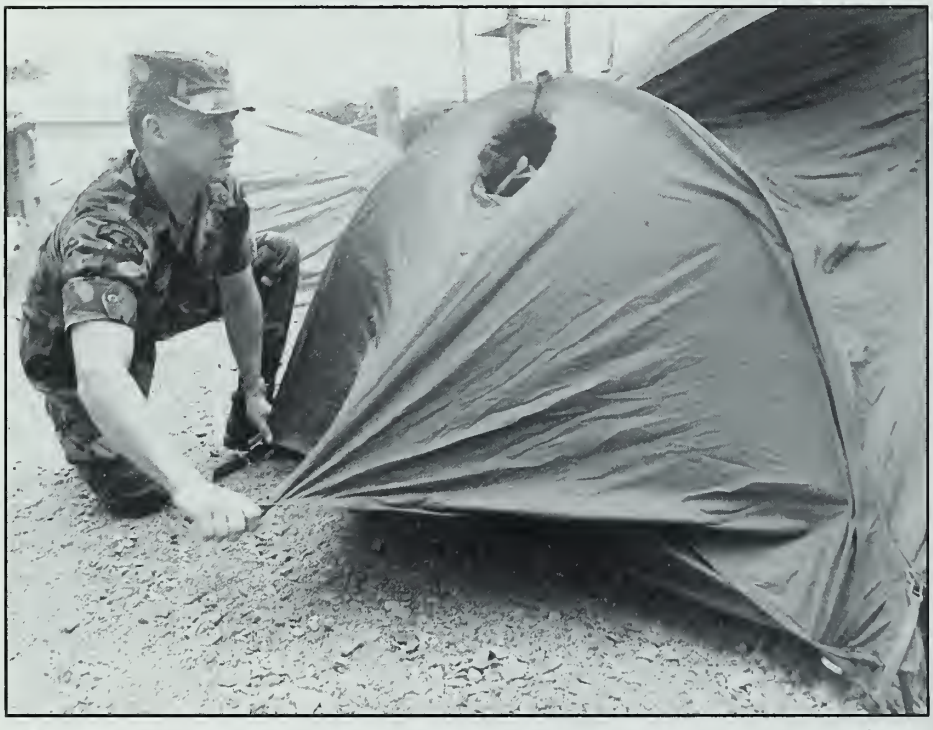
The camouflage Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) was developed in the 1980s at Natick to replace the Army's old green combat and garrison uniforms. Natick also redesigned the Desert BDU camouflage pattern for Desert Storm when the patterns of the old one didn't match that of the Saudi Arabian deserts. Hot weather and desert BDUs are also now 15

Donna Miles

The company barracks at the Natick center houses assigned soldiers and volunteer "test subjects."

Donna Miles photos

A soldier sees how easily he can maneuver pegs into holes while wearing a prototype field work glove. The dexterity test is used to evaluate the glove's practicality.



A human research test subject sets up a tent for a night "in the field" to test equipment being developed at the Natick center.

percent lighter and more durable than in the past due to research and soldier surveys done by Natick.

Recent developments in clothing and equipment at Natick include improved chemical protective gear, a new Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System (a seven-layer system that can be shed layer-by-layer) and a microclimate cooling system used to reduce heat stress in hot environments. Natick is also testing a body armor suit that would protect troops from head to toe against anti-personnel mines and booby traps.

Development of durable footwear is another challenge that Natick has tackled. According to Harvey Keene, public affairs officer for Natick, if soldiers' feet aren't comfortable, neither are soldiers.

"That will be reflected in performance," Keene said. "Mobility equates to survival on the battle-

field, and boots are the most basic prime mover for soldiers."

This thinking has resulted in developing up-to-date footwear for use on today's battlefields. New hot weather boots that stay cooler than conventional boots and desert boots that prevent sand from entering them were Natick projects.

Natick tests boots by using mechanical "feet." The machine simulates actual stepping in the footwear, enabling the researchers to study such factors as how long it takes water to penetrate the boot.

Natick has come a long way in improving servicemembers' lives and the center probably won't run out of ideas any time soon. According to Mansier, a great number of suggestions come from individual soldiers in the field or field representatives, helping the center tailor products to the needs of the troops who might use them.

New products currently in the works are lighter-weight tents that are protected against chemical threats and a Laundry and Decontamination Dry Cleaning System -- a waterless laundry system for field use. Force Provider, a transportable tent system for the field that includes comforts such as showers, climate control, recreational services, telephones and mini convenience store, is now being tested by units for future use.

According to Keene, as long as there is a military, there will be a need to develop new systems that use state-of-the-art technology. And Natick will be there helping to keep the American servicemember the best equipped in the world. ⬟

Stories by Specialist Kimberly D. Halpin

Consumer testing the Army way

Specialist Julio Guerreio thinks of himself as the adventurous type. That's why he likes to try something new just about every day.

He gets the chance to do that by being a human research test subject at the U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center in Natick, Mass. For almost three years, he's been involved in product research ranging from tasting new food recipes to testing potential uniforms.

One test group Guerreio was part of was for the newly-developed seven-layer Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System. For that, he wore the suit in the center's arctic chamber in 20 degrees below zero "weather," accompanied by simulated wind and snow. To measure how well he was protected by the suit, his vital signs were monitored by machines he was hooked up to.

To determine how to keep soldiers from dehydrating in hot, dry environments, Guerreio's test group drank glycerol, a harmless food additive believed to slow down the dehydration process. The group was then put in a tropical chamber that can reach 165 degrees and observed for factors such as the amount of perspiration and urine they produced.

Guerreio said the only side effect he's suffered is a little weight gain from testing the food.

"We're all closely monitored when we're in a test situation," he said. "And all of the tests are voluntary, so you can choose which ones you want to participate in."

The subjects are recruited by a human research team from Natick, which travels to Advanced Individual Training (following basic training) stations across the country. After personal and medical screenings, test subjects are accepted on a voluntary basis. About half of the approximately 40 soldiers at the center are permanently assigned, while the other half stays for about three months.

U.S. Army

Human research test subjects undergo testing in a climatic chamber.

Lynn Lameka, Human Research Program coordinator, said a big reason why the subjects are recruited at AIT is because they are Natick's ultimate customers -- average soldiers who use the center's products in the field. She added that letting their "consumers" test products helps ensure solid feedback.

While his name may not go down in any history books, Guerreio hopes his donation to research will make a difference in other soldiers' lives.

"We test things that will affect the way soldiers will soldier in the future," he said. "If I can help make things easier for them, I think I've made a pretty big mark on the Army."

KABOOM!
"Freeze! Freeze!"
"I've got a door over here."
"What do you see in there?"
"I've got furniture and a box...a tin box or something...I can't see what's behind it!"
"As soon as you button-hook to the left there's a constricted space. I can't see behind that, either!"
"Okay, let me take the door."
"Your left corner is clear! Your left corner is clear!"
"Check."
"Okay, I'm moving in. I'm gonna' transition and close in on it!"
"Go!"

–Marines from 1st Platoon, FAST Company, assault the first room of a two-story building during an anti-terrorist exercise.

Think FAST

How would you enter a smoke-filled, two-story, terrorist-held, booby-trapped building?

If you're a Marine assigned to the Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team (FAST Company), you know the answer. Field exercises, in which crisis situations are regularly simulated and acted on, are one of the biggest reasons why.

The 300-man, Norfolk, Va.-based security force uses specialized tactics and advanced small arms firepower to overcome terrorist threats, respond to crises and protect ships, aircraft and lives. When a real-life crisis escalates to a point where normal security capabilities aren't enough, the FAST Marines are called upon.

The FAST Marines are ready to meet the challenge because they routinely conduct military exercises to hone their skills. The exercises are hardly "games," however. And the participants feel the pressure. Credibility is at stake. FAST Marines know that lives depend on the trust, confidence, discipline and proficiency of every team member. Nobody wants to be the Marine who was responsible for getting a squad member "killed" during an exercise firefight.

During recent military operations in urban terrain

(MOUT) exercises at Fort Pickett, Va., Lance Corporal John Slattery, a 1st Platoon FAST Marine, explained why FAST Marines take exercises so seriously.

"The training we're getting right now will be used for all of the missions to come," he said. "We are the 'tip of the spear' for the Marine Corps; we're out there deployed right now."

For FAST Marines, MOUT exercises, close quarters battle, fast-roping from helicopters, rappelling from rooftops and a strong emphasis on marksmanship are the norm. The FAST Marines practice marksmanship with weapons such as the MP-5 (Colt 9mm submachine gun), the 9mm pistol and the Mossberg 590 modified shotgun -- firing with both the strong and weak hands. A platoon of 50 FAST Marines fires 70,000 rounds in a typical week.

What makes FAST Marines special? The fact that FAST Marines are members of an all-volunteer unit has a lot to do with it.

"I think you get a better quality and higher caliber Marine, because they're more motivated and dedicated to the Corps..." said Lance Corporal Douglas Good, a member of 1st Platoon. "...They're ready to take on bigger challenges."

"It's definitely a good thing," commented Slattery, a 20-year-old Phoenix, Ariz., native. "They want to be here, they want the knowledge and the skills, they want the missions...they're hungry for it."

Marines volunteer for the 2 1/2-year special duty but have to be selected to serve. A Marine must be an expert marksman in firing the rifle and pistol, have a top-notch physical fitness test score, be an above average swimmer, have no fear of heights and possess a high degree of mental toughness to become a FAST Marine.

"Not only do you have to be aggressive, but you have to be intelligent and retain a lot of knowledge," said Slattery. "There's a lot more to it than pulling the trigger. You have to have brains behind that trigger."

The most important thing is being a team player, Slattery said.

"It's all about working with one another...it's not that one man or that star player that goes out and does the 'Michael Jordan thing,' " said Slattery. "You've got to get in there and be a hard-core team player." ⬟

Story and photos by Sergeant Jeff Landis

(Far left) Lance Corporal John Slattery, in full gear, awaits orders during an exercise.
(Above) Instructors demonstrate the proper use of an MP-5 submachine gun during a close-quarters firefight exercise.
(Left) A squad of FAST Marines practices strong- and weak-hand marksmanship skills using the modified Mossberg 590 and Remington 870 shotguns.

Talkin' Trash

The Navy can talk trash with the best of them.

It isn't a matter of being trendy. For the Navy, it's a matter of ensuring the environment is taken care of -- whether at sea or on shore.

The Navy's missions are performed by more than 490,000 people around the globe. Those people must not only get the job done, they must also do it in an environmentally acceptable fashion.

Picture an aluminum can. An aluminum can may take up to 500 years to decompose.

Now, take an aircraft carrier with a crew of 6,000. If every crew member drank one soda a day during a six-month deployment, more than one million cans would require disposal. Toss in the fact that the Navy has 12 carriers and about 400 other ships and you get an idea of just how big an environmental consideration aluminum cans are.

Throwing the cans overboard isn't the solution. For the Navy, the answer is recycling. J.J. Hoyt, Resource and Recycling Manager at the world's largest Navy base in Norfolk, Va., says nearly 55 tons of aluminum cans were collected from ship and shore commands at Norfolk during 1993.

"Aluminum cans are just one small part of our recycling program," said Hoyt. "In all, the resale value of all the products we recycled on base came to more than $850,000. Without the recycling program on base, we would have simply thrown all those dollars in the garbage."

The Navy is currently giving a lot of attention to recycling plastics, as well. According to Hoyt, while ships are at sea, all the plastics on board are retained. To better handle the storage of those plastics, the Navy is developing a processor that will heat and compact

U.S. Navy photos

Employees of the Resource, Recovery and Recycling program on Naval Base Norfolk, Va., sort through some of the 55 tons of aluminum cans recycled by the base.

A sailor puts a warning label on a can of hazardous material.

the materials into small, dense blocks. The blocks can then be recycled into a wide range of products after the ship reaches port.

The problem is also being attacked by making a concerted effort to limit the amount of plastic on board ships in the first place. For example, the Navy recently teamed with private industry to develop a new coffee cup that doesn't need a plastic liner. Eliminating the plastic liner resulted in a cup that is 100 percent bio-degradable. Another positive outcome, from the Navy's standpoint, was that the cost of the new cup was comparable to the older cup that wasn't bio-degradable.

A major consideration at sea is that ships produce garbage, sewage and waste water just like any other household in the United States.

"However, it's harder for the Navy because they don't have a garbage man picking up their trash," Hoyt said. "Their sewage system is also limited to the confines of the ship's hull."

In essence, ships are expected to store garbage, waste water and sewage on board until it can be off-loaded in port.

To better deal with garbage, the Navy is working on a compactor that kills bacteria and odor by heating the garbage to very high temperatures. The garbage is then compacted into dense blocks, which allows for easier storage on board until the ship reaches shore.

Ships deal with the sewage problem by using a water-oxidation process. By heating it to about 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit in a pressurized container, sewage can be turned into harmless oxides. The same technology is used to oxidize water from showers, sinks and galleys on board.

Even when they're not at sea, sailors take an active role in a variety of environmental programs. For instance, according to Dolline Pryor, Environmental Public Affairs Officer, 3,000 Norfolk sailors participated in the 1993 "Clean the Bay Day," an annual program designed to clean the bay and shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay. About 60,000 pounds of trash and debris were collected.

It just goes to show that when it comes to talking trash, the Navy does more than merely pay lip service to the idea. ●

Story by
Journalist 2nd Class
D.N. Kennedy

A sailor, donned in full protective gear, cleans up spilled jet fuel on the hangar deck of an aircraft carrier. Safety and environmental considerations are primary concerns when dealing with any type of hazardous substance.

Duty with Honor

When you're one of the best at what you do, it's hard to stay out of the spotlight.

It's true if you're Joe Montana.

It's true if you're Janet Jackson.

It's also true if you're a member of the Langley Air Force Base, Va., Honor Guard.

The Honor Guard is an elite team of airmen that performs ceremonial duties at military retirements, weddings, funerals, parades and other special events. Whenever there's a need for a formal military presence at an event, the Honor Guard stands poised to respond.

The 56-member team is made up of volunteers. Because they must still perform their regular Air Force jobs, Honor Guard members normally spend a lot of off-duty time practicing and participating in ceremonies. During a typical year, the Honor Guard is involved in about 120 ceremonies.

Staff Sergeant Keith Lanning, a 30-year-old native of Asheville, N.C., and one of the more senior members of the Honor Guard, said attitude has a lot to do with being a member of the team. "Motivation, a desire to want to excel...a desire to not be average, to be the exception," are what's needed most, Lanning said.

"You have to want to do it," said Airman First Class Paul Holcomb, 24, of West Palm Beach, Fla.

Holcomb, who volunteered because he "wanted to be part of an elite team," said the duty is especially important since the Honor Guard is so visible to civilians who often form their opinions of the Air Force based on the impression the Honor Guard makes.

Because the image they present is so important, Honor Guard members go to great lengths to ensure that their uniforms are as spotless as their drill movements are exact.

Airman Joy Wells, 18, of Fremont, N.H., said that maintaining the high standards has its rewards.

"I like the discipline behind it," she said. "I like how nice and sharp we all look together and how everyone else thinks we really look sharp."

While being in the spotlight may not be for everybody, if you're a member of the Honor Guard it just goes with the job. That's what comes with being one of the elite. ⬟

Story and photos by
Senior Master Sergeant Steve Dry

(Far left) Members of the Langley Honor Guard prepare to "Present Arms" during a ceremony.
(Left) Inspections are a regular occurrence for Honor Guard members.
(Above) A member of the Honor Guard stands at attention while in formation.

Balancing the Scales of Justice

Story and photos by Specialist Kimberly D. Halpin

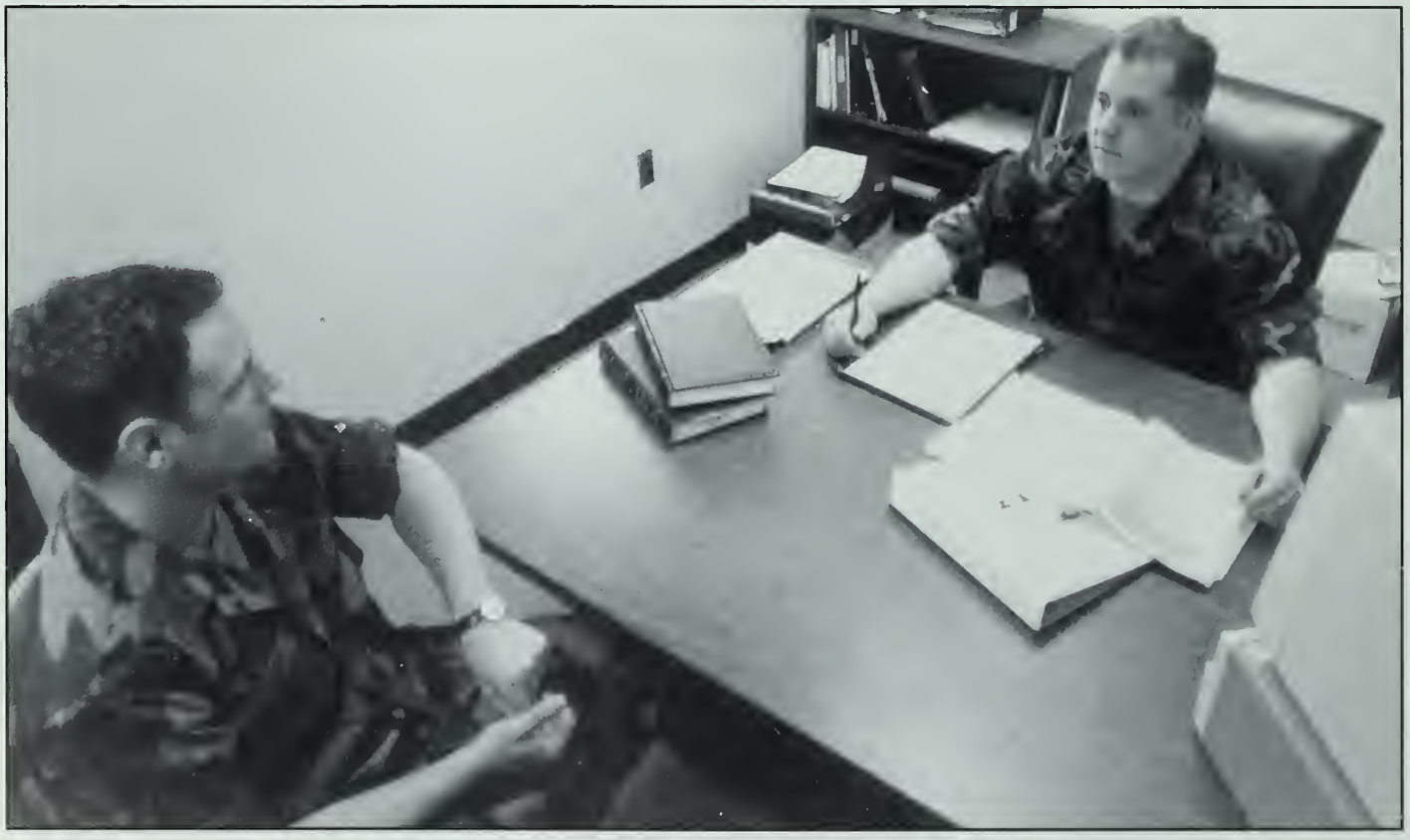
When soldiers come to Captain Al Anzini with legal problems they can't handle, he weighs the matters on the scales of justice and tries to balance things out.

Anzini is a lawyer at the Staff Judge Advocate's Office at Fort Eustis, Va. He and his staff are the "answer people" troops come to when legal affairs feel like bricks on their shoulders.

"We usually stay pretty busy," Anzini said. "People come in with a million problems and questions a day, but that just gives us a chance to learn something new about the law."

Since being commissioned in January 1991, Anzini has worked in almost every capacity a lawyer can within the military legal system. As a trial counsel, he prosecuted cases involving illegal drugs, aggravated assault and embezzlement. As a claims attorney, he investigated claims filed against the government. Now, as the chief of legal assistance, Anzini helps clients with matters such as wills, divorces and problems with creditors.

Anzini said that most people are surprised when they find out that



Captain Al Anzini confers with another member of the legal staff at Fort Eustis, Va.

the Army has real lawyers.

"Some people have the impression that lawyers in the Army have gone to some kind of Army law school, but there's no such thing," Anzini said. "They think because we're green shirts (in the Army) we're not real lawyers, and they'll sometimes ask to see a real one. But we have the same qualifications as a civilian attorney. We may even be more knowledgeable, because we know the military law system as well as we do the civilian law."

To be commissioned as a first lieutenant, a candidate must have a law degree and be admitted to his or her state bar association by passing an exam.

Since the Army has a unique set of laws that soldiers fall under, called the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Army lawyers must acquaint themselves with those laws and Army regulations by attending a basic course on the subject when they first join.

Anzini enlisted in the Army in 1981 as a journalist. After his four-year enlistment was up, he used his Army education benefits to attend college and law school. Then he decided to try the Army again.

"I don't want to sound corny and say that I came back in because I missed the Army, but I liked it a lot when I was in and knew there were good benefits to it," Anzini said. "So I decided to come back in and try it as an officer."

Anzini has been satisfied with the decision.

"As a civilian lawyer, you have to worry about billing hours with clients, and that takes up a lot of your time," he said. "Since our services are free, I can spend more time on the cases. I can help them with a wider range of situations than if they went to a civilian lawyer."

Anzini said that, in most cases, he can keep a matter like debts to creditors out of civilian court simply by stepping in and helping to sort out the issues.

"A lot of people come in with problems that to them seem a little overwhelming. When you help them with the problem, you've taken a load off their shoulders, and they're usually pretty grateful.

"It's a good feeling to know that they're breathing a little easier when they leave your office." ⬟

Officer Profile

Name: Al Anzini
Rank: Captain
Age: 33
Date of birth: Jan. 11, 1961
Date entered service: Feb. 2, 1981-1985 (enlisted), Jan. 7, 1991 (officer)
Duty title: Chief of Legal Assistance
Command: Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Fort Eustis, Va.
Hometown: Lexington Park, Md.
High School: Ryken High School
Colleges: Indiana University, Ind.
College of William and Mary, Va.
Degrees: Bachelor of Arts degrees in anthropology and political science, Doctor of Jurisprudence.
Reason for joining the service: Chance to travel and get a broad array of legal experience.
Favorite aspect of the service: Meeting interesting people with a variety of backgrounds.
Least favorite aspect of the service: Confusing and poorly written regulations.
Where you've been stationed: Kaiserslautern, Germany; Fort Belvoir, Va.; Fort Eustis, Va.
Dream assignment: Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe; Mons, Belgium
Proudest moment in career: Obtaining a guilty verdict in a child molestation case resulting in a 22-year sentence for the defendant.
Spouse's name: Cathy

Children: Lauren, 3, and Rebecca, 2
Hobbies: Soccer and collecting baseball cards
Favorite TV show: *Andy Griffith*
Favorite movie: *My Favorite Year* with Peter O'Toole
Favorite book: *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand
Your ideal vacation: Touring New Zealand and Australia
If you had 15 minutes on national television, what would you say?
"I would discuss how nice the world would be if everyone followed the 'Golden Rule.' "

Sergeant Antonio Erskine talks to a prospective recruit. When he's not in his office, Erskine can be found giving his sales pitch to students at local high schools.

Hard Corps Sell

Story and photo by Sergeant Jeff Landis

Sergeant Antonio Erskine is one of the world's most unique salesmen because the product he's selling can't be bought.

Erskine, a hard-charging Brooklyn, N.Y., native is a Marine Corps recruiter in Suffolk, Va., who readily admits that his product isn't for everyone.

"I cannot make you a Marine," he said. "I can only give you the opportunity to earn the title of a 'Marine.' "

Erskine added, "You have to have that strong desire, dedication and willingness to succeed...It's all about striving to be the best you can be."

If you've ever thought of a recruiter as a guy who would say just about anything to get you to sign on the dotted line, think again. Erskine deals in facts. And one of the facts is if you don't meet certain qualifications, you don't get in.

Before a potential recruit can enlist in the Marine Corps, Erskine conducts a multi-phase screening process. High school transcripts are evaluated. There's also a police background check, a medical evaluation and an initial strength test. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test also has to be taken. If the individual successfully clears those hurdles, he or she becomes a "poolee."

Poolees can delay their entry into the Marine Corps for up to 12 months before entering boot camp. During that time, Erskine will ensure the poolee is regularly exposed to a military environment. Activities can range from visiting a base to firing at the rifle range or going through endurance-building confidence courses. Erskine shows his genuine interest and personable nature toward the poolees by occasionally taking them out for a bite to eat or a movie .

Erskine became a recruiter after attending a six-week school at

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. There, he honed his communication and salesmanship skills and received a well-rounded "product knowledge" of the Marine Corps. But it takes more than classroom work to succeed as a recruiter.

"You have to a be self-starter," explained Gunnery Sergeant Angela Hunter, noncommissioned officer in charge of Recruiting Substation Norfolk, Va. "And integrity is number one out there."

Erskine agrees.

"We need to be straight shooters," he said. "We gotta' go in there and fire away."

Erskine can often be found "firing away" at the schools. Erskine calls this his "cruisin' time." He puts a lot of "face time" in with the students, talking about anything that's on their minds. He gets involved with the schools' organized sports and speaks in front of large classes on a regular basis. He tells students about the importance of staying in school and being a producer in society. And, because he knows the schools are often where future Marines are found, he talks about the Marine Corps.

"We build great leaders in the Marine Corps that will get out and be great leaders in the community," he stated.

"I cannot make you a Marine. I can only give you the opportunity to earn the title of a 'Marine.' "

-- Sgt. Antonio Erskine

Erskine sometimes has to correct misconceptions his audience has about the Marine Corps. He said one of the most common misconceptions young people have is that the Marine Corps is too hard. Erskine's answer is simple. "Anything that's easy doesn't necessarily mean that it's good. The Corps has such a strong tradition of being hard core, and getting past the fear of boot camp is one of the biggest obstacles. I always tell them, 'Hey, I'm no better than you are. If I can make it, so can you.' "

Erskine recalled once sitting down with a poolee and her parents, who said, "I don't know about the Marine Corps...When you go, you come back a killer."

Erskine said, "Well, there must be something wrong because I've been in the Marine Corps almost 10 years and I'm still the same person I was when I first came in. Yes, I've changed. I'm more focused. I know what I want out of life, and I know how to obtain what I want out of life."

And, for those who want to be Marines, Erskine knows how to help them obtain that, too. ⬟

A note from a parent

9/23/93

Dear Sgt. Hunter,

Just a line to thank you for your work with Keith. Our trip to his graduation was wonderful. He graduated PFC. His Gunnery Sgt. said he worked hard. He changed from a boy to a man while he was gone. We really enjoyed family day and the graduation ceremony. We were very impressed by everything at Parris Island. When Keith arrived home, your congratulations card was here for him.

Thank you again for a job well done.

Sincerely,
Grace Albion
Proud Parent

Marine Corps

Recruiter

Description — Locates, interviews and informs potential recruits about current Marine Corps programs, opportunities and benefits.

Helpful background skills — Strong speech and writing skills, ability to pay attention to detail, honesty, integrity.

School — Six weeks at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

Related civilian jobs — Salesperson, counselor, marketing specialist and public relations liaison.

Mess management specialists serve lunch aboard the *USS George Washington.*

When you're cooking for thousands, you're not just...

Messing Around

Story and photos by Sergeant Jeff Landis

When the recipe calls for 60 pounds of onions, somebody has to do the peeling, slicing and dicing. Aboard the aircraft carrier, *USS George Washington,* the tear-jerking task is just one of many performed routinely by mess management specialists.

These Navy cooks are responsible for keeping a crew of 6,000 fed every day. While the ship is in port, that means preparing three square meals a day. At sea, a fourth meal is prepared for sailors who work unusual shifts. That's a lot of chow. And a lot of tough work, according to the mess specialists.

"We've got to do this every day," said Seaman Glenn Frorath. "When we're tied to the pier and everyone else is on downtime, we're still working."

"I wouldn't compare our job to anyone else's," said John Bradley, an enlisted reservist serving his active duty time aboard the *Washington.* "Nobody works as hard as we do."

Despite the long hours, the demands of the work itself and the fact that recognition isn't always forthcoming, there's some self-satisfaction in being able to cook for so many people.

"I like to be creative and hear someone compliment my cooking by saying, 'Damn, that was good!' " said Bradley, a Richmond, Va., native. "(My cooking) will make your tongue slap your brain!"

To Bradley, being a cook aboard the *Washington* is something like working in a giant hotel. Not only is there a lot of cooking; there's also a lot of planning when it comes to ordering food. Petty Officer 1st Class Walter Ford, cargo chief for the *Washington,* has a "shopping list" that would wipe the shelves of a large grocery store clean.

Ford called the food-ordering process "a guessing game."

"But you've got to use realistic numbers," he added.

One thing the cooks do their best to keep from guessing about is what the crew likes to eat. The cooks regularly review the crew's written comments and suggestions and meet with the representatives of each of the ship's divisions to get ideas.

"We get a lot of suggestions for meals the crew

So you've got to make enough meat loaf for 6,000 people? Well, try this recipe on for size...

MEAT LOAF

INGREDIENTS:

***1,800 lbs. ground beef**
***240 lbs. bread crumbs**
***22.5 lbs. salt**
***540 tbsp. pepper**
***30 tsp. garlic powder**
***60 lbs. celery (finely chopped)**
***60 lbs. onions (finely chopped)**
***1,440 eggs (whole)**
***300 oz. milk**
***1,466 oz. water**
***1,533 oz. tomato juice**

DIRECTIONS:

1. Throw all the ingredients together into a huge bowl.
2. Mix ingredients lightly but thoroughly.
3. Shape into a couple thousand loaves and throw it in a "King Kong-sized" oven.
4. Bake for several hours.
5. Eat it.

would like, and we try to work them into the (menu within) the next day or so," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Tyrone Sloan, a 21-year-old Navy cook from Wallace, N.C.

In addition to the dining hall where the main course is served, there's another galley that specializes in fast-food items aboard the *Washington*.

For the cooks, who may only get a 10- or 15-minute break between each meal, it's a hectic job. To keep things from getting tiresome, tasks are rotated. One time the job may involve baking pies or cookies. The next time it might mean cooking the main course, preparing the salad bar, or even stocking the shelves.

These Navy cooks don't underestimate the importance of what they do.

"I think we're the heart of the whole operation," Ford said confidently. "If you keep the crew happy with good food, you've got a good ship."

After all, nobody wants to deal with 6,000 growling stomachs. ⬟

Navy

Mess Management Specialist

Description — Orders, prepares and serves food. Prepares menus, maintains records for food supplies and financial budgets and manages personnel living quarters.

Helpful background skills Ability in arithmetic, records keeping and detail work. Interest in nutrition and culinary arts.

School — Eight weeks at San Diego.

Related civilian jobs — Baker, cook, butcher, night club manager, cake decorator, chef,

A mess specialist slices the main course, Virginia baked ham, for the carrier's crew.

Tooth Techs

Story and photos by Senior Master Sergeant Steve Dry

Almost all of the work done by Shelly Aldous and Brandy Daniels gets brushed off -- and that's the way it should be.

Aldous and Daniels, both airman first classes, are dental technicians at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

The two airmen represent both sides of the dental technician career field. Aldous, a 22-year-old native of Rockford, Mich., works directly with patients. Daniels, 20, of Pleasant City, Ohio, is a dental laboratory technician. Her work involves everything from repairing dentures to making retainers and bridges.

"It's a good sit-down, work-with-your-hands type of job," Daniels said. "It's technical and it's a skill."

The lab Daniels works in reflects that. Within the "bench" area, white stone-like impressions of full sets of teeth are made. Dentists use the impressions to make diagnoses. In the "chair" area, located opposite the bench, are individual work spaces for each dental lab tech. This is where the more detailed work of setting up a denture or waxing a crown is performed.

"I've had as many as 14 sets of impressions come in in one day," Daniels said. "If I get them in during the morning, usually they're out by the end of the day."

The more complex job of making a denture, where each tooth has to be set, can sometimes take as much as two days, Daniels said.

While Daniels does her work behind the scenes, Aldous has a more visible role. She sees patients and works in conjunction with a dentist daily.

Airman First Class Shelly Aldous assists Major (Dr.) Scott Goldstein with a patient. Aldous, a dental technician at the Langley Air Force Base, Va., dental clinic, sees anywhere from eight to 10 patients daily.

(Left) Airman First Class Brandy Daniels, a dental laboratory technician, fills a mold to make a diagnostic cast. (Above) Daniels waxes the tissue area of a removable partial denture. Some of the more complex fabrications can take up to two full days for a dental lab tech to complete.

"I normally see anywhere from eight to 10 patients a day," Aldous said.

If a patient needs a tooth cleaning, Aldous performs it. When the patient's needs are more complex -- like getting fillings, having a root canal, or getting braces -- Aldous assists the dentist. That involves making sure the proper instruments are available when they're needed.

"After he's done with the patient, he's busy with the paperwork and I have to clean up and reset for the next patient," Aldous said.

Aldous said the main thing she likes about the job is working directly with the dentist.

"He (Major Scott Goldstein) makes it real interesting," she said. "He quizzes me all the time and makes sure I know things. If I don't, he'll make sure I do know it."

While the dentist has the most visible job in many patients' eyes, Goldstein said the dental technician is a key player in the patient treatment process.

"Without my assistant's help, I'd be severely handicapped in being able to provide good care for the patients...," Goldstein said. "Not only does she help with patient care, but it's her job to schedule appointments and take care of patients who call in with emergencies. She's in charge of the whole disinfection and sterilization program here...she's my right hand."

But even Aldous admits that there are times when things don't go exactly as planned. One of those times occurred when Goldstein was making a sports mouth guard for a patient. Toward the end of the procedure, when Aldous was cleaning up, she accidentally triggered two metal water spraying devices.

"Water squirted all over the patient, all over the doctor and all over my room," Aldous said, laughing. "That was one of the funniest things that's ever happened...He (the patient) just laughed."

For Aldous, it was a memorable accident that brought a smile to a patient's face. But, for Aldous and Daniels, giving patients something to smile about is simply all in a day's work. ⬟

Air Force

Dental Technician

Description — Operates dental facilities and provides paraprofessional dental care and preventive dental services. Dental laboratory technicians fabricate prosthetic devices. Dental technicians assist dentists in providing patient care.

Helpful background skills — Knowledge of oral and dental anatomy, biology and chemistry.

School — Six months at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, for dental laboratory technicians. Two months at Sheppard for dental technicians.

Related civilian jobs — Dental hygienist, dental assistant.

As a Coast Guard storekeeper, ordering items so units can function or keeping account of budgets is a matter of...

$upply and Demand

Story and photo by
Specialist Kimberly D. Halpin

Coast Guard Petty Officer Cynthia Wadley works in a job most people would love to have -- she buys things and gives others advice on how to spend their money.

Wadley, a storekeeper for the 5th Coast Guard District Headquarters in Portsmouth, Va., purchases everything from food and clothing to oil for ships in her mission to keep her people and ships supplied and afloat.

Wadley also maintains office storerooms. And since her units have their own small purchase accounts, she advises them on what they can buy themselves. Serving six offices and 24 units in the district means handling a pretty big chunk of change for the Coast Guard. But Wadley said her biggest challenge is customer satisfaction.

Petty Officer Cynthia Wadley researches a supply order request for a unit of the 5th Coast Guard District Headquarters in Portsmouth, Va.

"Sometimes it's a job in itself to keep everybody happy," she said. "This is a real people-oriented field and you have to be able to communicate well. I deal with a lot of small businesses that we buy things from, too, so it's kind of like being a purchaser for a company."

Wadley said a lot of paperwork as well as accounting is involved in the job. Storekeepers also use an ever-evolving computerized financial system to keep records of purchases. Constant training to stay efficient on the system is necessary.

Wadley said she left her home in Charlotte, N.C., and joined the Coast Guard in order to do something different with her life. Now, as a storekeeper, she feels she is fulfilling that desire as well as an important mission for the Coast Guard.

"I think I supply an important need to the units I service," Wadley said. "For instance, if we had a ship that ran out of oil, it couldn't move without it. They'd call me for help in purchasing it.

"They have a source of information for what they need to know for buying things, and I have the satisfaction of knowing that I've helped them out." ⬟

Coast Guard

Storekeeper

Description — Orders, receives, stores, inventories and issues clothing, foodstuffs, mechanical equipment and other items; may work as payroll clerk.

Helpful background skills — Typing, bookkeeping, accounting, math, general business and English.

School — Nine weeks at the Coast Guard Training Center in Petaluma, Calif.

Related civilian jobs — Sales or shipping clerk, warehouse worker, buyer, invoice control clerk, purchasing agent, accountant.

TOONS

"That's the new field ration diet pack."

"Mind if we use your bathroom?"

50 years ago...

Bill Mauldin became the youngest person ever to win a Pulitzer Prize for his famous WWII editorial cartoons. Even today, Mauldin's "Willie and Joe" cartoons can bring a smile to those who appreciate military humor.

"Who is it?"

WORLD WAR II

1941-1945

A Profile WWII 50th anniversary commemorative photo

With the Coast Guard shield on its blunt nose and a Coast Guardsman at its control, a Marine-packed amphibious landing craft bears down upon the beach of Saipan, a Japanese base less than 1,500 miles from Tokyo. The Marines hold their fingers aloft with the "V for Victory" sign. They gained their victory after fierce enemy resistance that cost nearly 10,000 American casualties in the first two weeks of the invasion during the summer of 1944. (National Archives)

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